(b) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether any memorandum in this regard has been sent to the Government by MPs and the StaU; Government; aM

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and by when international flights are likely to be started from Ludhiana?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. However, due to non-availability of sufficient land and lack of demand from airlines for international operations through Ludhiana, AAI has no plan, at present, to upgrade Ludhiana Airport as international airport.

SANGHYA VAHINI PROJECT

2618. SHRI MD. SALIM ; Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been dravm to the news-item 'Sanghya Vahini confroversy may generate heat' as published in the Observer dated 14th March, 2000.

(b) if so. Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether DoT has signed MoU with lUNET for setting up the *TV* when lUNET did not legally exit, as alleged; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and if not the actual status of the company as on 16th October, 1998 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The issues highlighted in the said published report have been examined by the Government before proceeding further with the project.

(c) and (d) Carnegie Mellon University owned the name lUNet Inc. on the date of signing of MoU i.e. 16th October, 1998. The Articles of incorpora tion were signed on January 6, 1999 and filed on 8th January, 1999.

As per established corporate custom in US, the corporation, once its name is reserved, starts busmess under that name for negotiation and developing business even before the Articles of Incorporation are signed and filed with Department of State. Dr. Reddy signed the MoU, both as a Chairman of

the company whose name was reserved and as the Dean, School of Computer Science, CMU.

Fault Rate of Telephones in Delhi

2619. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the fault rate of telephones is increasing in the MTNL, Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for providing quick repair services to customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes Sir. The average fauh rate in MTNL Delhi during 1999-2000 has marginally increased by 0.9% over the previous years.

(b)(i) Large scale construction works for fly-overs.

(ii) Digging on account of setting the Metro-Rail.

(iii) Broken and leaking sewer lines flooding the telephone cable ducts.

(iv) Cable thefts.

(c) The following steps have been taken for the quick rectification of the telephone faults :

(i) All the exchange FRSs (Main and RLUs/RSUs) have been fully computerized except a few FRSs of remote RLUs/RSUs in Area North which are likely to be computerised very soon.

(ii) For quick making over the telephone complaints and promote rectification of faults, the field staff have recently been provided with the pagers.

(iii) Upgradation of external plan is being done to reduce fault rate which will help in faster rectification of faults.

(iv) Motivation and training of staff.